1964/10

REPORT OF THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE PLANT PROTECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

Held in Canberra, Australia
November-December 1964

COMMONWEALTH MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE LIBRARY
9 JUN 1983

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Beginning in January 1955, reports of FAO meetings, held as part of the Program of Work of the then Agriculture Division, were issued in the present form and numbered chronologically within each calendar year.

Since the establishment of the Plant Production and Protection Division in January 1959 the serial annual chronological numbers refer to reports issued by this Division.

Reports of previous meetings of the Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region were issued as follows:

First Meeting	**Bangkok, Thailand**	**3- 7 December 1956**
Second Meeting	**Kandy, Ceylon**	**2- 7 December 1957**
Third Meeting	**New Delhi, India**	**7-12 December 1959**
Fourth Meeting	**Manila, Philippines**	**11-19 June 1962**

Meeting Report
PL/1964/10

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION

OF

THE PLANT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

FOR THE SOUTH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

held in

Canberra, Australia

from

26 November to 2 December 1964

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, Italy January 1965

22875/E

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
PARTICIPATION	4
PRESENT STATUS OF THE PLANT PROTECTION AGREEMENT	8
PLANT QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS	9
SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE CONFERENCE	16
REPORT OF THE STANDING TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE	18
MEASURES FOR REGULATING IMPORTATION AND MOVEMENT OF PLANTS	20
SPECIAL PLANT QUARANTINE PROBLEMS	26
Progress in the Study of Plant Parasitic Nematodes	26
Post-entry Quarantine Facilities	27
Prevention of Introduction and Spread of Weeds	28
Aircraft Treatment Procedures	29
Goods in Direct Transit	30
THE USE OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS	32
REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE MANUAL	34
PROGRAM OF THE COMMITTEE	35
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	39

INTRODUCTION

The Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region was set up under the terms of article II of the regional Plant Protection Agreement. This Agreement came into force on 2 July 1956 and the first session of the Committee was held in December 1956, in Bangkok, Thailand. Subsequent sessions of the Committee were held in December 1957 in Kandy, Ceylon; in December 1959 in New Delhi, India; and in June 1962 in Manila, Philippines. The Committee, which consists of representatives of participating governments, acts as an advisory body to these governments on matters relating to the Agreement and considers and makes recommendations on plant protection problems which require regional co-operation.

The Fifth Session of the Committee was held, through the courtesy of the Government of Australia, in Canberra from 26 November to 2 December 1964. The session was attended by representatives of eight participating governments, as well as by observers from four other governments concerned and from the South Pacific Commission. Eight general meetings and seven sub-committee meetings were held.

Immediately prior to the session, excursions were arranged by the Plant Quarantine Section of the Department of Health to allow participants to see plant quarantine facilities and associated research institutions in Brisbane and in Sydney. During the meeting, visits were organized to plant quarantine facilities at Yarralumla Nursery and also to the Divisions of Plant Industry and Entomology of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. Post-meeting tours took delegates to some of the farming areas of New South Wales and Victoria, particularly to see the application of area quarantine. Thereafter plant quarantine facilities and connected research services were inspected in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

At the opening session, delegates and observers were welcomed by Major-General W. D. Refshauge, Director-General of Health of Australia. He mentioned that Australia is a country which depends a great deal on primary industry as the basis of its economy and pointed out that, this being so, it is very fortunate that Australia is free from many serious crop pests and diseases which abound in other parts of the world. Although this was due largely to the isolated geographical position of Australia, it was also due to quarantine measures which play a vital role in maintaining this fortunate position. Dr. Refshauge stressed that his government desires to co-operate with its neighbours in the South East Asia and Pacific Region and is anxious to achieve the ideal of complete co-operation in plant protection in the Region. To this end it is of paramount importance that an exchange of ideas, views and procedures should be continued.

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr. V. A. M. Beermann, Representative for Australia and New Zealand of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, Special Fund and UNICEF, welcomed participants and thanked the host government for its hospitality. He pointed out that the essential role of international co-operation in the effective functioning of plant protection operations had long been recognized by FAO and traced the development of the Committee since its inception in 1956. As a result of its efforts quarantine legislation had been improved in many territories in the Region; a better knowledge of the plant pests and diseases already in the Region had been gained; and an information service had been set up which ensured that governments were kept aware of outbreaks and movements of pests and diseases both within and outside the Region. Much had thus been achieved but much still remained to be done, and it was confidently felt that the present meeting would make a valuable contribution to this end. The Director-General looked forward to fruitful results ensuing from the meeting and assured the Committee that every effort would be made by FAO to implement any recommendations put forward.

The Honorable Mr. R. C. Swartz, Minister for Health of Australia, then addressed the meeting and stressed again the welcome to delegates and observers extended by the Director-General of Health and pointed out the deep interest taken in the subject of plant quarantine by the people of Australia. He also recorded his appreciation of the fact that the Committee was meeting in Australia. The Honorable Minister recalled that the Committee had only been in existence for a few years but that what had already been achieved augured well for its future activities. He then mentioned that two important aspects of the subject of plant quarantine must be considered by the Committee. The first, and perhaps more important, aspect was the basic one of the problems associated with the technical and scientific side of the subject. The second was also vitally important because without it quarantine could not succeed; this second aspect was the education of the peoples in the Region to the necessity for plant quarantine. The Honorable Minister concluded by assuring the Committee that Australia would continue to do everything in its power to assist the Committee in every possible way and extended his best wishes to the Committee for the success of its deliberations.

Mr. Eugenio E. Cruz of the Philippines, as Chairman of the Committee and speaking on behalf of delegates and observers, expressed the deep gratitude of all participants to the government of Australia for making the meeting of the Committee possible. He pointed out that the Committee was an investment in good will, understanding and co-operation and had an important role to play because, individually, territories were unable to combat pests and diseases effectively, but collectively they could do so. In the Philippines alone an estimated 20 to 30 per cent. of crop production was lost through the ravages of pests and diseases. If this loss could be prevented it would be of inestimable benefit.

Acknowledgments

FAO gratefully acknowledges the courtesy extended by the Government of Australia in having the Fifth Session of the Committee in Australia. FAO also records its appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and the assistance provided by the Australian Secretariat consisting of officers of the Departments of Health and External Affairs and also the Parliamentary Reporting staff. In particular mention must be made of the work in organizing the meeting of Dr. T. H. Harrison, Assistant Director-General (Plant Quarantine) of the Department of Health and leader of the Australian delegation; of Mr. Cockburn, Assistant Director, Administration and Finance, Department of Health, Sydney, who was seconded as Conference Officer; and of Miss R. Dobson, of the Department of External Affairs.

PARTICIPATION

Delegations of Participating Governments

Australia

T. H. HARRISON	Assistant Director-General of Plant Quarantine Department of Health Canberra, A.C.T.
J. R. G. MORSCHEL	Assistant Director of Plant Quarantine Department of Health Canberra, A.C.T.
W. J. BETTENAY	Supervisor of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Exports Department of Primary Industry 301 Flinders Lane Melbourne, Victoria
N. C. K. EVERS	Department of External Affairs Canberra, A.C.T.
A. W. CHARLES	Chief, Division of Plant Industry Department of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries Port Moresby Territory of Papua and New Guinea
G. P. KELENY	Plant Introduction Officer Department of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries Port Moresby Territory of Papua and New Guinea
J. S. TILIP	Plant Quarantine Officer Department of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries Port Moresby Territory of Papua and New Guinea

Ceylon

H. E. FERNANDO	Entomologist Division of Entomology Department of Agriculture Peradeniya

France

B.A. HUGUENIN	Plant Pathologist Office de Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer P.O. Box 4 Noumea, New Caledonia

India

S. SINGH	Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India 4/19 Ajmeri Gate Extension New Delhi - 1

Malaysia

S. J. NAVARATNAM	Plant Pathologist Department of Agriculture Kuala Lumpur

Philippines

E. E. CRUZ	Director of Plant Industry Bureau of Plant Industry Manila
H. A. CUSTODIO	Senior Entomologist Bureau of Plant Industry Manila

Thailand

KAHN JALAVICHARANA	Plant Protection Expert Department of Agriculture Bangkok
SAKSIRI KIRTPREDI	Chief Plant Quarantine Officer Department of Agriculture Bangkok

United Kingdom

R. ELPHICK	First Secretary, (Agriculture and Food) British High Commission Canberra, A.C.T. Australia

Observers

Indonesia

SOENARDI	Director, Research Institute for Pests and Diseases of Crop Plants Bogor

Japan

N. INUJIMA	Second Secretary Embassy of Japan Canberra, A.C.T. Australia

New Zealand

L. G. MORRISON	Officer in Charge Horticultural Research Laboratory Department of Agriculture Box 241 Levin

South Pacific Commission

K. NEWTON	Tropical Agriculturalist South Pacific Commission P.O. Box 9 Noumea, New Caledonia

United States of America

W. W. CANTELO	Entomology Adviser USOM Petchburi Road Bangkok Thailand

FAO Staff

A. JOHNSTON	Regional Plant Protection Specialist FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East Bangkok Thailand

Officers of the Meeting

At the first technical session of the meeting, Dr. T. H. Harrison of Australia was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the regional Plant Protection Agreement, to succeed Mr. E. E. Cruz of the Philippines. Under the provisions of Article II of the Agreement, Dr. Harrison will serve as Chairman for a period of two years or until the first session of the Committee held after the expiry of the period of two years.

Mr. A. Johnston of FAO served as Technical Secretary.

Two Technical Sub-Committees and a Drafting Sub-Committee were set up to serve during the period of the meeting. They were composed of the following members:

Sub-Committee to consider Regulatory Measures: S. Singh (India), Chairman; W. J. Bettenay (Australia); W.W. Cantelo (U.S.A.); H. A. Custodio (Philippines); H. E. Fernando (Ceylon); B. A. Huguenin (France); G. P. Keleny (Australia); L. G. Morrison (New Zealand); J. R. G. Morschel (Australia); S. J. Navaratnam (Malaysia); Saksiri Kirtpredi (Thailand); J. S. Tilip (Australia).

Sub-Committee to consider the Program of the Committee: A. W. Charles (Australia), Chairman; E. E. Cruz (Philippines); R. Elphick (United Kingdom); Kahn Jalavicharana (Thailand); Soenardi (Indonesia).

Drafting Sub-Committee: T. H. Harrison (Australia), Chairman; A. W. Charles (Australia); H. A. Custodio (Philippines); N. C. K. Evers (Australia); N. Inujima (Japan); Kahn Jalavicharana (Thailand); S. Singh (India).

PRESENT STATUS OF THE PLANT PROTECTION AGREEMENT

The Government of the Netherlands is no longer a participant in the Agreement as it has ceased to be responsible for the international relations of any territory in the Region. The present status of the Agreement is given below:

Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification	Date of Adherence
Australia	27 February 1956	Not required	
Ceylon	27 February 1956	Not required	
United Kingdom	29 March 1956	3 December 1956	
Laos	25 May 1956	17 March 1960	
*Indonesia	28 June 1956		
Portugal	2 July 1956	5 September 1957	
Viet-Nam	2 July 1956	Not required	
India	2 July 1956	Not required	
Thailand	-	-	26 November 1956
France	-	-	20 August 1957
Malaysia	-	-	20 November 1957
Pakistan	-	-	8 January 1958
Burma	-	-	4 November 1959
Philippines	-	-	11 June 1962

* Signature subject to ratification

The Agreement entered into force on 2 July 1956 in accordance with the provisions of Article XI.

As of 3 November 1964, the following thirteen governments are parties to the Agreement: Australia, Burma, Ceylon, France, India, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Thailand, United Kingdom, Viet-Nam.

PLANT QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS

Australia

Territory of Papua and New Guinea. The Quarantine Ordinance of 1953 and the Quarantine (Plant) Regulations of 1956 provide full power for the implementation of the quarantine aspects of the Agreement. The legislative provisions are fully implemented. Plant material and other goods of interest in plant quarantine entering the territory are intercepted at ports and airports of entry. Quarantine officers gazetted under the Ordinance are stationed at all these ports. Treatment where required is applied by qualified personnel. Incinerators for the destruction of material are available at all major ports and airports. Fumigation facilities have been provided at Port Moresby and Lae.

Progress has been made in training local officers in plant quarantine work and they are acting on a full-time basis. Post-entry quarantine facilities are available at the Plant Introduction and Quarantine Station at Laloki near Port Moresby. All quarantinable plant material irrespective of the port of entry or destination is required to undergo quarantine at this station. Specialist Officers (entomologists and plant pathologists) stationed at Port Moresby act as consultants in examining plants prior to release from quarantine.

The control of pests, diseases and weeds within the Territory is covered legislatively by the Plant Disease and Control Ordinance of 1953 and its Regulations of 1956. Since the last meeting of the Committee in June 1962 the legislative changes mentioned below have taken place:

(i) Certain plants have been declared to be notifiable noxious plants or noxious plants.

(ii) Provision is made for the proclamation of certain areas in the vicinity of ports and airports of entry where certain declared species of plants may not be grown.

(iii) Following an outbreak of blister smut of maize (Ustilago maydis) the removal of all maize material from affected districts has been prohibited.

Ceylon

The Plant Protection Ordinance of 1924 with its subsequent amendments has been rigidly enforced to give effect to the quarantine aspects of the Agreement. Certain amendments to the plant quarantine regulations which were enacted in April 1961 have not yet been reported to the Committee. These amendments include the following:

(i) Two additional ports, the sea-ports of Galle and Trincomalee, were declared as ports of entry.

(ii) Further restrictions were imposed on the importation of species of the genera Theobroma, Ipomoea, Colocasia and Xanthosoma.

These amendments brought Ceylon's plant quarantine legislation fully in line with the recommendation of the Committee.

There have been no changes in the plant quarantine organization in Ceylon since the last meeting of the Committee. It is, however, proposed in the future to create Plant Quarantine Sub-stations at the airport of Kankasanturai in the northern tip of Ceylon and in the sea-ports of Galle and Trincomalee.

The recommendations drawn up by the Committee on the importation and movement of the planting material of specific crops have been enforced in Ceylon.

In recent years a coconut disease of obscure origin has appeared in Ceylon. The disease has been designated leaf scorch; the cause of the disease has not yet been determined.

France

In the French Pacific Territories of New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna Islands, French Polynesia, and in the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides certain recommendations of the 1964 South Pacific Commission Regional Plant Quarantine Conference have been adopted and existing plant quarantine regulations have been improved.

In French Polynesia all authorized importations of plant materials must be covered by a health certificate; all imported non-processed plant materials are treated by fumigation and dusted if necessary; all aircraft are disinfested on arrival at Papeete and garbage incinerated.

In the Territory of Wallis and Futuna plant quarantine is operated under a decree dated 22 August 1963. This provides for the designation of plant quarantine officers, the prohibition of all imports of plant material except under permit, the provision of phytosanitary certificates for exported plant material, the prohibition of certain imports, and the destruction or disinfestation of materials in case of contravention of the decree.

In New Caledonia the Plant Protection Service is organized under the decree of 1954. New plant quarantine regulations which take into account the recommendations of the 1964 South Pacific Commission Regional Plant Quarantine Conference have been presented to the Territorial Assembly. These regulations having been rejected at first reading, the text was consequently amended and a decision should soon be reached.

In the New Hebrides the Plant Protection Service has been re-organized by a joint regulation of 13 October 1964. Under this regulation all plant material is imported under permit. The importation of certain plants may be completely prohibited, ports of entry are defined and all plant materials subject to control are stopped by Customs.

India

The Destructive Insects and Pest Act (1914) continued in force, as did special restrictions previously imposed on the import of cotton, flax, sugar cane, berseem, sunflower, tobacco, potatoes, bulbs of Allium species, citrus, cacao, coffee and rubber. Further restrictions have been placed on the import of potatoes and tobacco and fruit from Afghanistan. Steps have been taken for the imposing of further restrictions on the import of cacao, coconut, groundnut and tea and it is expected that regulations will be issued shortly.

Six new quarantine stations were established during recent years. These are at the seaports of Kandla (1961), Bhavnagar (1963) and Dhanushkodi (1964); at the Tiruchirapalli airport (1963) and at Khalra (1963) and Hussainiwala (1963) on the Indo-Pakistan border. A survey for opening a land frontier station on the Indo-Nepal border has been conducted.

Buildings have been constructed at the seaports of Calcutta, Cochin and Madras and at the airports of Amritsar, Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras. Glasshouses are available at Madras and Calcutta seaports and one at Bombay seaport is proposed to be constructed shortly.

Indonesia

Plant quarantine in Indonesia is based upon Law No. 2 of 1961 concerning the export and import of plants and planting material. The implementation of this Act is laid down in the regulations of the Minister of Agriculture No. 6 and 7 of 1961 together with later amendments.

Importation of plants or planting material is permitted only through 30 designated ports and exportation through 34. The large number of points of entry and export is considered necessary since Indonesia comprises many islands and transport from island to island is limited. Under the regulations all plants or planting material imported must be accompanied by a health certificate. In addition, an import permit is also required for the importation of certain plant species affected by destructive pests and diseases not yet established in Indonesia. The requirements for importation are stated in the import permit and in general they are the same as those recommended by the Committee. As regards organization,

practically no change has been made recently; the number of trained personnel is rather limited at present. As concerns facilities, the total capacity of fumigation chambers is at present 324 cub. meters.

A list of diseases of important crop plants of Indonesia has recently been prepared.

Japan

The Plant Quarantine Service operates through four main stations, six branch stations and twenty-nine sub-branch stations. The budget for the present financial year is about US$ 560,000. During 1964, plant quarantine officers from Japan carried out field investigations in Malaysia and Thailand to establish the fact that the Mediterranean fruit fly is absent from these countries. The absence of this fruit fly enabled Japan to amend its Plant Protection Law Enforcement Regulations of 25 December 1963, so as to allow bananas to be imported from these countries into Japan. Similar amendments are being prepared as regards India, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma and Pakistan.

Malaysia

In the States of Malaya, the need for a plant quarantine service is appreciated by the Government and liberal financial support has been given towards establishing such a service. At present, quarantine work continues to be done on a part-time basis by plant pathologists and entomologists in the Research Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Buildings to serve as offices and inspection rooms now exist in Port Swettenham, Penang and Kroh on the Malayan-Thai border. The plant quarantine island off Singapore continues to function and is to be developed.

There is a proposal to bring the quarantine organizations of Malaya and Singapore under one authority, to provide more adequate quarantine safeguards. The position of Sabah and Sarawak in this connection is at present under study.

Club-root of cabbage was found in highland areas in 1962 and is proving destructive.

New Zealand

Plant quarantine is operated under the Plant Quarantine Regulations which are revised approximately every five years. As regards facilities, there are large fumigation stations at the main ports of Auckland, Wellington

and Christchurch, each with a capacity of about 2,000 cubic feet for atmospheric fumigation and two 1,000 cubic feet cylinders for vacuum fumigation. Small chambers and tents are also available at these and other ports. Inspection is carried out at the main ports and airports, of which there are ten. Diagnosis of material showing any disorder is made in a central laboratory at Levin, where there are pathologists, entomologists, a botanist and a therapeutic specialist.

Pakistan

New Plant Quarantine Rules have been prepared wherein the recommendations of the Committee have been incorporated.

During 1963-64 five new plant quarantine stations at Khokhropur, Nokkundi, Tamabil, Akhaura and Rangarh covering important land routes, were to start functioning. At present there are eight quarantine stations in West Pakistan and eight in East Pakistan. It is proposed to strengthen the plant quarantine service in Karachi and Dacca and to establish new stations at Quetta and Peshawar.

Fumigation chambers, suitable for fumigating truck loads of fresh and dried fruits have been completed at Jamrub. A large laboratory for training and research on plant quarantine has been completed at Karachi Airport. Construction of post entry quarantine stations at Karachi and Dacca together with small laboratories for inspection of plant materials at other stations has been proposed.

Philippines

Since the fourth meeting of the Committee in Manila in June 1962, some changes have been instituted in the organization and function of the Philippines' plant quarantine service so that implementation of the various recommendations adopted at that meeting could be effected. There has been organized a Research Unit under the Plant Quarantine Section to undertake investigation of problems on commodity treatments and on other related fields of study. The Plant Quarantine Research Laboratory is staffed with a plant pathologist, an entomologist, a chemist, a pharmacist and an assistant trained in nematology. A herbicide technologist will also be assigned to this laboratory to study the weed species that are accidentally brought in with foreign cargoes.

A number of Plant Quarantine Regulations have been revoked or amended in the light of recent research findings or in pursuance of the more exacting or specific requirements of international trade. As regards staff, a two-month pre-service training course was held in 1962 at which

15 new Plant Quarantine Officers were trained before being sent to their respective ports of assignment. In addition, a two-month in-service training course for new Plant Quarantine Officers has also been held.

Thailand

The new Plant Quarantine Act of Thailand was enacted in March 1964. In the Act prohibited material from specified regions can be imported or entered in transit only under permit and under conditions specified by the Director-General of Agriculture and only for research purposes. Restricted plant materials can be imported or entered in transit when accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, but can only come in through a specified plant quarantine point of entry. All plant materials are subject to inspection, treatment, post-entry quarantine or destruction, whichever may be found necessary.

A six-room post-entry quarantine glasshouse with insect proof screened walls was recently completed at Bangkhen Agricultural Centre in Bangkok, where the Plant Industry Division of the Department of Agriculture is situated. This post-entry quarantine station is therefore at a research centre where work in mycology, virology, entomology, nematology, botany and plant quarantine is being carried out.

During the past two years great concern has been caused by outbreaks of grasshoppers which occurred for the first time in 1963, and appeared again in 1964. In 1963 the outbreaks were mostly of the Bombay locust (Patanga succincta). During 1964, there were also outbreaks of Hieroglyphus banian which occurred on sugar cane, rice and maize.

United Kingdom

British Solomon Islands Protectorate

An Ordinance to Amend the Agriculture and Live Stock Ordinance came into force on 1 May 1964. The amendments were drawn up in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee and of the South Pacific Commission and, together with the original Ordinance, give adequate plant quarantine protection.

Fiji

A completely revised Noxious Weeds and Diseases of Plant Ordinance and Regulations has been prepared and is expected to be promulgated early in 1965. A 1500 cubic feet atmospheric fumigation chamber for use with methyl bromide is now in use at Suva Wharf. One Assistant Produce Inspector, at the time of the session, is attending a three months course of plant quarantine at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii.

United States of America

Guam and U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

In the territory attempts are being made to eradicate the oriental fruit fly Dacus dorsalis and the melon fly D. cucurbitae by the male sterilization and male annihilation techniques. This work was begun on Rota Island in 1962. Shortly thereafter, on Guam, advantage was taken of the elimination of most of the hosts of D. dorsalis by the typhoon to carry out an eradication campaign there. Both these campaigns have been successful. Work is now in progress to eradicate both aforementioned Dacus species from Saipan and Tinian in the Mariana Islands as the other islands in the group are not infested. The object is to create a fruit fly free area between Asia and the United States.

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE CONFERENCE

The observer from the South Pacific Commission reported on the South Pacific Commission Regional Plant Quarantine Conference held in Apia, Western Samoa, in March 1964. Among the subjects discussed at the meeting were:

(a) The present status of the plant quarantine regulations and facilities, and the organization and staffing of the plant quarantine service of territories in the South Pacific Region, as well as progress made in implementing the recommendations in the 1961 report by Mr. B. A. O'Connor on "Plant Quarantine in the South Pacific Commission's Area".

(b) Techniques and methods of plant quarantine.

(c) Staffing and facilities of plant quarantine services in the area.

(d) Plant quarantine problems specific to the region.

(e) Training of plant quarantine staff. In this connection attention was drawn to the plant quarantine training course arranged by the East-West Center in Hawaii scheduled to be held for three months from December 1964 to February 1965.

(f) Measures to prevent introduction and spread of pests and diseases of important economic crops.

(g) Preparation of distribution maps of major pests and diseases in the Region and of country lists of pests and diseases.

(h) Plant parasitic nematodes.

(i) Plant introduction and intermediate and post-entry quarantine.

(j) Publicity in plant quarantine.

The Conference recommended that a Plant Protection Officer should be appointed to the staff of the South Pacific Commission to resume the clearing-house activities and advisory services in the field of plant protection which the Commission previously carried out. The South Pacific Commission has agreed on the necessity for this appointment, which will be made early in 1965.

The Committee expressed its gratification at the way in which plant protection activities had been developed by the South Pacific Commission and noted with satisfaction the close co-operation that existed between the Commission and the Secretariat of the Committee as evidenced, for example, by the timing of the 1964 Conference and the proposed timing of future similar conferences to fit in with the meetings of the Committee. Co-operation between the two bodies will be strengthened by the proposed appointment by the Commission of a Plant Protection Officer.

The report of the 1964 South Pacific Commission Plant Quarantine Conference was welcomed by the Committee as making a valuable contribution to the regional concept of plant quarantine and to the prevention of introduction and spread within the Region of pests and diseases.

REPORT OF THE STANDING TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

As Secretary of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee, the Technical Secretary of the Committee reported on the activities of the Sub-Committee since the Fourth Committee Meeting. The Sub-Committee held two meetings during the period, the first meetings of the Sub-Committee to be held, as previously its business had been carried on by correspondence. The first of these meetings was held in Bangkok on 7 December 1963 and the second immediately prior to the Fifth Meeting of the Committee, on 25 November 1964. The minutes of both these meetings were presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Secretary reported on his activities which had largely been determined by the decisions and recommendations of the Committee at its Fourth Meeting and of the Sub-Committee at its meeting in December 1963. They may be summarized as follows:

(a) The information service was continued by the circulation of Quarterly Reports, Technical Documents and Information Letters.

(b) Visits to countries in the Region were carried out as before, either on request or for special purposes of gathering information, attending meetings etc. During the period since the last meeting of the Committee visits were made to American Samoa, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Tonga and Western Samoa.

(c) A paper on major weeds in the Region was compiled for presentation at this Meeting.

(d) Information on plant nematodes in the Region was collected and assembled in a regional list, to which a supplement was later added.

(e) A survey of aircraft treatment procedures was carried out and results summarized in a document for presentation to the Committee.

(f) A preliminary list of plant protection workers in the Region was compiled.

(g) Host lists of pests and diseases known to occur in the Region continued to be compiled and revision of earlier lists was begun. Crops dealt with in lists produced during the period under review included citrus, cotton, coffee, banana, abaca, sweet potato, potato, jute, taro, yam, cassava, sorghum, chilli, tomato and brinjal. In addition, the list of rubber pests and diseases was revised.

(h) Information on the giant snail (Achatina fulica) was collated and was submitted to the Committee.

(i) Costs of printing publicity materials were surveyed and summarized.

(j) Information on plant quarantine training facilities in territories in or near the Region was collected and has been assembled for the information of Committee members.

(k) A paper has been prepared on certain aspects of post-entry quarantine in the Region.

(l) Information was collected from territories in the Region on publicity campaigns carried out since the last Committee meeting. This information has been assembled for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee registered its approval of the program of work carried out by the Technical Secretary, and the way in which the activities of the Sub-Committee had assisted in defining his program and guiding the Technical Secretary in his work.

It was recognized that by holding meetings in the period between meetings of the full Committee, the Standing Technical Sub-Committee had performed a very useful function in furthering the work of the Committee, both by maintaining continuity in these interim periods and by indicating to the Technical Secretary the activities through which he could best satisfy the requirements of the members of the Committee. The Committee therefore recommended that meetings of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee should continue to be held, the next meeting to be convened by the Secretary during 1965.

MEASURES FOR REGULATING IMPORTATION AND MOVEMENT OF PLANTS

The Committee reviewed in detail its previous recommendations on measures for regulating the importation and movement of plants. The Committee was hesitant to make any substantial alterations to recommendations which had been reached after careful consideration at previous meetings. However, in view of new evidence and experience that was not available at earlier meetings, and so that there should be no undue delay in utilizing this information to devise necessary safeguards for the Region, certain modifications or additions to be made to previous crop recommendations were put forward. A new paragraph "Fruit and Vegetables" has been added and a "Recommendation for Further Action" has been made.

No alterations should be made for:

Cotton
Maize
Potato
Rice
Sweet Potato
Tobacco
Soil and rooted plants

Modifications or additions are listed below according to subject.

Banana

The heading of this section should be altered to "BANANAS, ABACA AND OTHER MUSA SPECIES" and the section should read as follows:

To prevent the spread of bunchy-top virus disease, Panama disease due to the fungus Fusarium oxysporum var. cubense and nematodes in the Region, further introduction to the Region and distribution between territories in the Region should be restricted. It is therefore recommended that importations of Musa planting material be limited to small quantities introduced by recognized scientific institutions for special purposes, that all the imported material undergo a specified hot water or other approved treatment, and that the outer tissues of the corm be removed until completely clean tissues are exposed, and that growing in post-entry quarantine be mandatory. The importation of Musa species from Fiji and other areas where black leaf streak disease (Mycosphaerella sp.) occurs should be prohibited.

Cacao

Delete the second paragraph of the previous recommendation and substitute the following:

Each contracting government should prohibit by law the importation into its territory or territories of any vegetative planting material of Theobroma and also of any other plant found to be a host for the swollen shoot virus complex or other viruses of Theobroma, from all areas where these viruses are known to be present. Such other plants known up to December 1956 are other members of the family Sterculiaceae and members of the family Bombacaceae. The known distribution of the swollen shoot virus complex is West Africa. Other virus diseases have been recorded in Ceylon and the West Indies.

Citrus

Serious virus diseases, some important fungal diseases and certain insect pests have not been recorded in the Region. It is accordingly recommended that propagating material should not be imported into the Region except by governments, that importations of budwood should be restricted to small quantities only and subject to strict quarantine, and that as far as possible all budwood should be imported from sources certifying freedom from certain virus diseases and citrus canker.

Coconut

Resolution No. 7 of the First Meeting of the FAO Technical Working Party on Coconut Production, Protection and Processing held in December 1961, concerns quarantine precautions for the import of coconut planting materials. This resolution amplifies the Committee's former recommendation on this matter and should, therefore, be adopted as follows:

(a) No introductions should be made from areas where the following diseases or other diseases of obscure origin are known to occur:

Disease	Known distribution
Red ring (Aphelenchoides cocophilus)	Caribbean area
Lethal yellowing	Jamaica, Haiti, Florida
Kaincope disease	Ghana, Togoland
Cadang-Cadang	Philippines
Bronze leaf wilt	British Guiana, West Indies
Root (wilt) disease	South India
Guam coconut disease (previously reported as cadang-cadang)	Guam
Coconut wilt	Malaysia
Leaf scorch disease	Ceylon

(b) The above or similar diseases may also occur in other areas. Therefore in these other areas, the following precautions should be taken:

(i) Importation of coconut materials should be made only by official services, under permit, and only in small quantities, restricted to unsprouted nuts from which the perianth has been removed, which have been obtained from a known disease-free area.

(ii) The seednuts should be accompanied by a certificate from an appropriate authority in the country of origin that the seeds come from trees showing no signs of disease.

(iii) Upon arrival the seeds should be fumigated and/or treated by any method considered appropriate by the competent authorities of the importing country, to remove the risk of introducing insects or diseases.

(iv) The imported seednuts should be planted in individual containers in isolated quarantine for a period of at least three months after visible germination. Any diseased seedlings, together with containers and planting medium, should be burnt or effectively sterilized.

Coffee

In order to prevent the introduction into the Region of American leaf spot (Omphalia flavida), new strains of coffee rust (Hemileia vastatrix), virus diseases and insect pests, the importation of vegetatively propagated material and seed of coffee should be carefully controlled.

With the exception of a limited amount of selected clonal material, grown in an approved quarantine station, the importation of coffee propagating material into the Region should be restricted to seed which should be limited to small quantities for scientific purposes. The seed should be inspected and repacked outside the Region, fumigated, treated with a mercurial fungicide and grown under close supervision. The vegetative propagating material mentioned above may be imported into the Region only after being grown in an intermediary quarantine station, recognized for this purpose by the Standing Technical Sub-Committee.

Coffee rust (Hemileia vastatrix) and coffee berry borer (Stephanoderes hampei) exist in parts of the Region. Countries free of these within the Region should obtain seed only from such areas within the Region where coffee rust and coffee borer do not occur.

Ground Nut

To prevent the introduction of ground nut rust (Puccinia arachidis), Sphaceloma arachidis and insect pests, seed only should be imported into the Region. The importation of seed should be only under permit including the requirements that the seed be shelled, treated before export with an approved fungicide and after importation be grown in post-entry quarantine.

Oil Palm

The introduction of seedlings from outside and within the Region should be strictly prohibited.

Regarding seed from Africa or America, only small quantities should be imported and those should be introduced only by official services and should be treated with an organic mercurial fungicide, the treatment to be endorsed on the accompanying phytosanitary certificate.

Pineapple

To avoid the dissemination within the Region of the tomato spotted wilt virus and the introduction of some nematodes and dangerous pests, the right of importing pineapple vegetative materials should be limited to official services. These materials should be grown in isolated quarantine after being given the best available treatment against nematodes. The materials should be accompanied by a certificate of field inspection as well as by the usual phytosanitary certificate.

Attention is drawn to the possibility of the existence in different parts of the world of different strains of Dysmicoccus brevipes, some of which, for example those in West Africa, may be of particular virulence. It is recommended that the Standing Technical Sub-Committee investigate this matter and consider the desirability of altering the above recommendation on pineapple.

Rubber

Referring to paragraph 3 of Appendix B of the Agreement (Measures to exclude South American leaf blight of Hevea from the Region), it is recommended that the certificate mentioned in the paragraph to be signed by the officer-in-charge of the intermediate quarantine station should, in addition to the requirement in paragraph 3, stipulate that "the plant or plants are free from pests and diseases".

Sugar cane

Add the following additional paragraph to the previous recommendation:

In view of the existence outside the Region of serious pests (e.g. the beetle Phytalus smithii), viruses, bacterial diseases (e.g. leaf scald Xanthomonas albilineans) and other diseases including nematodes (e.g. Tylenchorhynchus martini) which may be transmitted in vegetative material, the importation of vegetative material of sugar cane should be limited to small quantities imported by governments, and should be undertaken only when the strictest precautions are taken both by the importing and exporting countries to ensure freedom from diseases and pests, and adequate intermediate or post-entry quarantine should be mandatory.

Taro

Because of the importance of taro and related plants, particularly Colocasia and Xanthosoma, in the subsistence economy of some territories in the Region and because of the fact that some diseases of these crops such as Phytophthora colocasiae, Pythium sp., and possible virus diseases, have not been found to be widely distributed in the Region, movement of propagating material of these aroids and all ornamental Araceae should be limited to small quantities for scientific purposes with strict quarantine precautions.

Tea

The importation of vegetative propagation material of tea should be prohibited from any area where the disease caused by Exobasidium reticulatum is known to occur (Japan) and from any country where phloem necrosis virus exists (Ceylon). Tea seeds should be imported only under permit and should be accompanied by the usual phytosanitary certificate as well as by a certificate of field inspection. In addition, they should be treated before departure and after arrival with appropriate fungicide and insecticide, and grown in post-entry quarantine.

Fruit and vegetables

The importation of fruit and vegetables susceptible to fruit flies, from countries where injurious fruit flies not present in the Region occur, should be prohibited unless the fruit and vegetables are certified by the exporting country to have been grown in an area where injurious fruit flies are not known to exist, or that the fruit and vegetables have been treated in an approved manner to kill all fruit fly larvae.

Recommendation for further action

The Committee recommends that the Technical Secretary invite member Governments to provide information and background material on forest plants, fruits such as grapes, vegetable crops and ornamentals and proposals for possible restriction on the movement of these commodities into and within the Region. This matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

SPECIAL PLANT QUARANTINE PROBLEMS

Progress in the Study of Plant Parasitic Nematodes

In conformity with a recommendation of the Fourth Meeting of the Committee a preliminary regional list of plant parasitic nematodes in the Region was compiled in 1963 by the Technical Secretary. A supplement to this list was assembled in 1964. Country lists of nematodes were submitted to the Meeting by Australia (Papua and New Guinea and Queensland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand. These were welcomed by the Committee as making valuable contributions to the knowledge of nematodes in the territories in or near the Region.

Recent progress in the study of nematodes was reported by several delegates. In Ceylon detailed studies have been conducted by plant pathologists of the Department of Agriculture and by a nematologist at the Tea Research Institute. In India investigations have been initiated on an organized basis at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, with the starting of two sections of nematology - one dealing with taxonomy and biology and the other with studies on the diseases caused by nematodes. A training course in nematology has been conducted at the I.A.R.I., with the participation of nematologists from India, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In the Philippines a survey of plant parasitic nematodes was begun in 1962. Apart from root knot nematodes other parasitic species have been recorded on rice, maize, sugar cane, pineapple, banana, abaca and citrus. In Thailand plant parasitic nematodes have been collected and sent to specialists for identification. In Malaysia a Japanese nematologist recently worked under the Colombo Plan for one year and recorded the presence of several species of nematodes. In New Zealand work on plant parasitic nematodes is being conducted at the D.S.I.R., where there is a full-time nematologist, and at Massey Agricultural College where training facilities for post-graduate students are available. No work on nematology has yet been done in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, but a survey carried out by a nematologist is urgently required there. In Fiji, some work has been done on the collection of nematodes for identification. As regards Australia, there is no nematologist in the territory of Papua and New Guinea, but collections have been made by plant pathologists and nematodes thus collected have been identified at the Waite Institute in Australia. There are six nematologists in Australia. Little or no work has been done recently in U.S. administered Pacific Islands, Indonesia or the French Pacific Territories.

The Committee agreed that the evidence put before them indicated a commendable increase in activities in territories in the Region in the field of plant nematology and expressed satisfaction at this evidence of the realization by governments of the importance of the subject. It was also agreed that this work should be actively continued and that the assembling of information on nematodes in the Region, already started by the Technical Secretary, should be continued.

To give further impetus to nematological investigations in territories in the Region, it was considered that facilities for training workers in this field should be developed. It was also recommended that, where necessary, arrangements should be made to have nematodes identified at some centre to which specimens could be referred. In the case of living material, quarantine safeguards would be imposed.

Post-Entry Quarantine Facilities

The Technical Secretary presented a review of the present availability of post-entry quarantine facilities in territories in the Region. This indicated that about 12 territories of the 25 dealt with have made some provision for this activity but that only in a small number of these do the available facilities fulfil to any extent the essential requirements for operation of safe post-entry quarantine.

Three ways in which improvement could be effected were considered:

(a) Each territory could develop its own post-entry quarantine facilities.

(b) Instead of quarantine being carried out within a country, it could be performed at an intermediate place, arrangements being made as necessary with a quarantine station willing to carry out the required work.

(c) One or more regional or sub-regional quarantine stations could be organized to service groups of territories.

The Committee considered these alternatives and agreed that wherever possible individual territories should establish and maintain their own post-entry quarantine stations. This would not be possible in the smaller territories with limited facilities and staff, although it was important to remember that such small territories have as much need for enforcing quarantine requirements as the larger territories as they could easily act as foci of infection or infestation.

For territories which for various reasons could not establish adequate post-entry quarantine facilities, plant introductions which are required to be grown for a period in quarantine should be made through territories which have suitable quarantine facilities and which would be prepared to carry out the necessary screening. The Committee did not regard as feasible or desirable at the present juncture to attempt to establish regional or sub-regional quarantine stations.

So that territorial post-entry quarantine stations might operate at maximum efficiency, it was recommended that the Technical Secretary should circulate to territories, through the medium of Information Letters or by other means, detailed information on proven procedures for use in the quarantining of specific crops and with reference to specific pests and diseases. Information should also be included on the scientific reasons for adopting the measures advocated.

Certain general principles which should govern all importations passing through quarantine were stressed: (1) the necessity of obtaining planting material from the safest possible source; (2) the desirability of introducing the smallest possible amount of material; and (3) the need for giving the best known treatment in an attempt to free it from pests and diseases.

Prevention of Introduction and Spread of Weeds

At the meeting of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee held in December 1963, action was initiated to collect, from territories in the Region, information on weeds, including data on the important weeds in these territories, losses caused by them, control measures adopted to combat them, weeds the entry of which was most to be guarded against and steps taken to prevent their introduction. The information thus collected together with additional information from Indonesia and the Philippines, was examined by the Committee and it was agreed that the assembly of this information was a useful starting point in the study of weed problems in the Region.

Consideration was then given to methods of preventing the introduction of noxious weeds into the Region or into individual territories. The delegate from Thailand proposed three ways to achieve this: (a) by strict plant quarantine, including the inspection and cleaning of seed; (b) by organizing an efficient plant introduction service to screen all seed being imported; and (c) by importing, as far as possible, only certified seed, or seed from a reliable source. These suggestions were regarded by the Committee as a helpful contribution to the problem.

Consideration was also given to a suggestion by the delegate from India that the possibility should be explored of the establishing by FAO of an operational research program on weed control in the Region and the Technical Secretary was requested to investigate the prospects of initiating such a program.

Aircraft Treatment Procedures

In introducing this subject, Mr. Kelsey of the Australian delegation pointed out that the increasing volume of air traffic and the increased speed and range of aircraft on international flights greatly increased the danger of live insects, etc. being carried from one country or continent to another. Disinfestation by an aerosol is the most important weapon at present in preventing the incursion of insects by aircraft. Until recently two methods (pre-flight treatment and in-flight treatment) were recommended in international practice. Although these methods are still prescribed by several countries, they have been found to be rather ineffective in practice and as a substitute WHO has evolved the so-called "blocks away" disinfestation method, in which the passenger compartment is treated after the embarkation of the passengers and while the aircraft is proceeding to take-off position. The crew compartment is treated separately prior to the embarkation of passengers. The "blocks away" method has now been accepted as a recommended practice by the Convention on International Civil Aviation. It is considered, however, that pending the installation of automatic spraying equipment, quarantine authorities may not be inclined to rely entirely on treatment as carried out by aircraft personnel.

The Committee considered this matter in some detail and felt that the following post-arrival procedure could be recommended for application by quarantine authorities.

(a) Treatment with a light knockdown spray immediately on arrival of the aircraft and prior to the disembarkation of the passengers and crew.

(b) Thorough spraying following the disembarkation of passengers and crew.

The aircraft would be kept completely closed during the above treatments.

(c) Treatment of the cargo and luggage compartments, wheel bays, nacelles, etc., concurrently with treatment of the main compartment.

As regards aerosol formulations to be used for aircraft treatment, the plant quarantine specialist is felt to be at a disadvantage as most commercially available aerosols are not completely effective against agricultural pests. The Committee found itself unable at present to make a precise recommendation on insecticides to be used but suggests that territorial plant quarantine authorities should use an insecticide which has proved reasonably effective against most types of insects and which is in line with recommendations made by authorities such as WHO and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Attention was drawn to recent developments in vapour fumigation, using DDVP. If DDVP proves to be non-toxic to human beings this method may represent a substantial improvement in aircraft treatment methods, as the vapour penetrates more completely the space treated than does an aerosol.

Reference was also made to the necessity for incineration of all aircraft garbage and to the inspection by plant quarantine officials of cargo and passengers' baggage.

Two additional precautions which might be adopted at airports and which would reinforce the aircraft treatment procedures outlined above were mentioned. They were the use of light traps to detect as soon as possible any insects that might have escaped from aircraft and the prohibition of the planting of economic plants near airports to prevent introduced insects from finding food materials.

Goods in Direct Transit

Methods of dealing with goods in direct transit through territories in the Region were discussed. In the Philippines the matter is of considerable importance and the Plant Quarantine Service takes steps to prevent unloading or removal of cargo in direct transit from ships or planes. In Thailand also the matter causes concern and no satisfactory way of dealing with the situation has been found. Only some restricted and prohibited materials can be regulated. In India the problem is recognized but it has not yet been possible to take much action in the matter. In Australia the normal method of dealing with goods in transit is to allow cargo to go into bond, and it is subject to inspection and, if necessary, treatment. In New Zealand the only problem is in ships' stores, which may contain dangerous material such as citrus fruits. Such stores are inspected or sealed while the vessel is in port.

It was concluded that the responsibility of the territory through which the goods pass is to ensure that, while the goods are in transit,

they do not infest the country in which they are temporarily placed. The ultimate responsibility for protecting the country to which the goods are finally destined must rest with that country itself. Because of the complex nature of the subject and the different conditions operating in the various territories in the Region, the Committee was unable for the time being to recommend any general measures which territories could take to solve the many facets of the problem.

THE USE OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS

Participants reviewed activities in the field of plant quarantine publicity which it had been possible to undertake in their territories since the last meeting of the Committee. In the Philippines a publicity unit has been established under the administration of the Plant Quarantine Section. Posters, as well as leaflets, have been prepared which have been widely distributed. In Thailand attention has been concentrated on television and radio, with broadcasts explaining the importance of plant quarantine. In French Polynesia a campaign has been started mainly in connection with the control of Brontispa of coconut and leaf spot of banana but also to inform the public of general plant quarantine procedures. In the New Hebrides information has been disseminated through the local press services and radio broadcasts. In New Caledonia an extensive publicity campaign is to be started next year. In India use is made of various types of audio-visual aids for publicity work. Posters, leaflets, etc., have been distributed but the emphasis so far has been on domestic quarantine measures. In Ceylon posters are displayed prominently at ports of entry. In Malaysia publicity is obtained mainly through distribution of a leaflet but newspaper and magazine articles are also used. In Sarawak radio talks have also been given. In the territory of Papua and New Guinea large plant quarantine posters are employed at airports, wharves etc. Publicity pamphlets are also available and talks are given on the radio. In the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands posters are in use, particularly in connection with the coconut rhinoceros beetle. A booklet explaining the purpose of plant quarantine is in preparation. In Australia many methods of publicizing plant quarantine are used. The subject is approached from two aspects; the motivation aspect, to achieve the co-operation of people for the benefit of the community; and the educational aspect, to teach the children the importance of the subject. In Japan four leaflets have been issued to various institutes etc. while another is sent to overseas embassies and travel agents. In New Zealand plant quarantine publicity readily falls into three categories - pictorial, spoken and written. Materials and methods used are films, radio broadcasts, talks and displays.

The Technical Secretary presented a paper in which reports from some territories not represented at the meeting were summarized. In the British Solomon Islands new plant quarantine legislation has been given wide publicity through public notices, radio etc. In the Cook Islands posters on the coconut rhinoceros beetle are used and press publicity is also employed. In Fiji publicity is restricted to matters concerning the coconut rhinoceros beetle. In the Gilbert and

Ellice Islands quarantine publicity is directed towards efforts to prevent movement of infested breadfruit. In Pakistan two colored posters and four leaflets have been produced, the radio and films are also used. In Vietnam an explanatory booklet is distributed to exporters, importers and travelers.

The Committee expressed satisfaction at the many and varied activities which had been undertaken by territories in developing the publicity side of their plant quarantine work. It was agreed that, through the efforts of plant quarantine authorities in the various territories, the concept of plant quarantine publicity had been accepted in most territories. It was recommended, however, that those concerned with this aspect of quarantine effort should continue to develop their campaigns until a general acceptance of the necessity for supporting such campaigns had been achieved.

The question of whether it would be desirable to design and produce a regional plant quarantine poster was considered by the Committee. Advantages of providing such a poster would be that: (a) it would be available to territories which at present had no such publicity material; (b) it might help to instill an appreciation of the regional concept of plant quarantine in members of the public; and, (c) the cost of a regional poster would be low because of the comparatively large numbers to be printed.

Doubts were expressed as to the usefulness of such a poster and the view was put forward that a central theme to be developed by each country according to its individual requirements was perhaps of more importance than a common design. Considerable support for the proposal was, however, also evident. The Committee recommended that the Technical Secretary should investigate the practical possibilities of producing a regional poster. It was also recommended that the Standing Technical Sub-Committee should attempt to obtain draft designs for such a poster, which could be circulated for comment to participating territories.

REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE MANUAL

Arising out of a suggestion made at the Fourth Meeting of the Committee that the Technical Secretary should distribute working manuals on plant quarantine techniques to plant protection officers in the Region, the Committee considered the desirability and practicability of producing a regional plant quarantine manual for the South East Asia and Pacific Region.

Although it was agreed that the ideal at which to aim was the preparation of plant quarantine manuals by each territory, designed to satisfy local individual needs, several delegates felt that a regional manual would be of considerable value, particularly as it would be some time before each territory would have available its own country manual. It was, however, recognized that there were practical difficulties to be met, including the question of financing the project and of arranging for the writing and editing of the manual. In addition, the Committee was unable to decide, in the short time available for discussion, on such basic concepts as the range and contents of the manual and the level of plant quarantine officer by whom it would be used. Under these circumstances it was agreed that in the first place the Technical Secretary should investigate further various aspects of preparing a regional manual. It was also agreed that thereafter the question should be reconsidered by the Standing Technical Sub-Committee, which would report back on the subject to the Committee at its Sixth Meeting.

PROGRAM OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee reviewed progress in the implementation of the program adopted at the Fourth Meeting, and concluded that the activities of the Technical Secretary as outlined in his report to the Fifth Meeting had proved very profitable and acceptable to plant protection authorities of participating governments.

The Committee recommended that in addition to the duties normally assigned to the Technical Secretary in his position as FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist, and subject to any alterations to his program which he might find necessary to make, activities should not only be continued along the same general lines as in the past, but should be expanded in certain directions. The Committee recommends that FAO take urgent action to secure the appointment of an Associate Expert to assist the Technical Secretary, so that its recommendations for increased activity may be implemented, especially in the following fields:

(a) Maintenance of an information service by means of quarterly reports and newsletters containing information on such items as new records and major outbreaks of established pests and diseases in the Region, and changes in plant quarantine legislation in territories in the Region. The Committee draws to the attention of all contracting governments the need for prompt and regular reporting if the information service is to be fully effective. To encourage research workers and others to contribute information promptly, even if unpublished, it is recommended that quarterly reports should bear an inscription to the effect that the reports must not be abstracted or quoted without reference to the authors.

(b) Gathering and circulation of special information regarding crops within the Region, and specifically regarding techniques used in the protection of these crops. The Committee also recommends that the Technical Secretary attempt, in so far as his resources permit, to extend the collation of such information to selected countries outside the Region, especially countries adjoining or with special interest in the Region.

(c) Visits to individual territories upon request, or in order to gather information relevant to inquiries into certain aspects of diseases or pests of any major crop in the area, and to develop and maintain contacts with personnel concerned with plant protection operations and research.

Discussions and requests at the Fifth Meeting indicated that the following matters should receive attention:

(a) Greater activity in the field of training in plant protection and quarantine principles and practices. The Committee recommends that the Technical Secretary re-examine this question as a matter of high priority, having in mind the following considerations:

(i) Training is needed at more than one level, because of the varying functions and responsibilities of quarantine personnel.

(ii) Existing institutions and courses may be able to offer some places for trainees from the Region.

(iii) There may be a country, not necessarily in the Region, prepared to develop suitable courses for training of its own personnel and to make available places for trainees from the Region.

(iv) A country with well developed plant protection and quarantine services has advantages for training purposes, as its courses can include demonstration of practice as well as formal instruction in principles. The Committee wishes to draw attention to the curriculum including both principles and practice proposed for the training courses for plant quarantine inspectors at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

(v) It may be necessary to arrange scholarships if full advantage is to be taken of training opportunities.

(vi) It would assist countries in the Region if the Technical Secretary would keep them informed of opportunities for training which may be available.

(b) Continuation of the collation and distribution of a list of major weeds in the Region, with notes on their occurrence and control.

(c) Examination of the possibility of arranging the services of a nematologist to undertake surveys on the occurrence of plant parasitic nematodes in the Region. Collection and circulation of information about institutions able to offer training in nematology or to undertake identification of nematodes, with notes on the conditions under which material for identification will be accepted.

(d) In so far as resources permit, the circulation of a list of workers in the field of plant protection in countries adjoining or with special interest in the Region.

(e) Continuation of the revision of lists of plant diseases and pests affecting crops in the Region.

(f) Assembling and preparation of abstracts for circulation, from all available technical reports or reprints. Indexing and classification of these documents.

(g) Gathering and circulation of information regarding biological control possibilities for major pests, diseases and weeds within the Region. The Committee draws attention to the need for countries contemplating biological control to make a critical study of the possible dangers as well as the advantages before attempting to import any parasite or predator.

(h) Gathering and circulation of information about current post-entry quarantine requirements in the Region for specific economic plants, diseases and pests, with notes on the reasons for the procedures adopted.

(i) Preparation and circulation to governments in the Region, for their consideration, of regional plant quarantine posters.

(j) Examination of the desirability and possibility of preparing a Regional Plant Quarantine Manual, in collaboration with plant protection personnel in the Region.

(k) Collection and circulation of information on advances in aerosol formulations and all procedures for aircraft treatment, including disinfestation.

With regard to its Sixth Meeting, the Committee recommends that:

(a) FAO give, if possible, at least six months notice of the time and place of the meeting.

(b) The FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist and countries submitting papers for the Committee meeting should endeavour to prepare papers in time to allow circulation prior to the meeting.

The Committee agreed that the Standing Technical Sub-Committee had functioned effectively during the period since the last meeting and that it should continue to operate as before. It was also unanimously accepted that the Sub-Committee should consist of:

T. H. Harrison (Australia), Chairman

E. E. Cruz (Philippines)

Kahn Jalavicharana (Thailand).

The Technical Secretary of the Committee would continue to act as Secretary and Convenor of the Sub-Committee.

A proposal that the Sub-Committee should be empowered to co-opt additional members was accepted.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee,

Having assessed the great benefits to plant protection which have followed collective action within the Region covered by the Agreement,

Considering that since the geographic limits of the Agreement were determined in 1956 there have been important changes in the range of crops dealt with by the Committee, in the knowledge covering pests and diseases of important crops in the Region and in pest and disease distribution,

Aware of recent important developments in trade affecting the Region,

Believing that in the absence of adequate action to prevent the introduction of certain diseases and pests to countries adjacent to the Region the efficiency of protection given to the Region could be adversely affected,

Requests the Director-General of FAO to seek the views of governments of countries in and adjoining the South East Asia and Pacific Region as to the desirability of extending the geographical scope of the Agreement.

2. The Committee,

Believing that up to date information on plant quarantine legislation of all countries is of great importance to countries supporting the Agreement,

Appreciating the value of the Digest and supplements of Plant Quarantine Regulations issued by FAO and of the revised information contained in the FAO Plant Protection Bulletin and in Quarterly Reports and Information Letters circulated by the Committee,

Nevertheless considers that an up to date digest would greatly assist officials in this Region and

Recommends to FAO that such an up to date digest preferably in looseleaf form be issued as soon as possible, and that amendments be issued as required.

3. The Committee,

Having considered the report of the Secretary and of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee on the inter-meeting activities of the Committee and the firm recommendation of the retiring Chairman that a meeting of the Sub-Committee at intervals of not more than twelve months is essential for the efficient working of the Committee between meetings,

Recommends to FAO that provision be made to call the Sub-Committee together by December 1965.

4. The Committee,

Being convinced that the efficient operation of plant quarantine depends on adequately trained staff both for inspection and supporting research,

Having reviewed facilities for training in plant quarantine existing in or near the Region,

Recommends that FAO explore urgently means of establishing plant quarantine training facilities for personnel from territories in the Region.

5. The Committee,

Having received the report from the South Pacific Commission of the South Pacific Commission Regional Plant Quarantine Conference held in March 1964,

Considers that the recommendations contained in the Report make a valuable contribution to the regional concept of plant quarantine,

Recommends to governments concerned that they do everything possible to increase the efficiency of their quarantine services as a safeguard to the economy of the area within the ambit of the South Pacific Commission.

6. The Committee,

Having considered the seriousness of diseases caused by nematodes in the Region,

Having noted the great advances made recently in nematology,

Believes that specialized training in nematology of suitable graduates should be available to authorities concerned with plant protection in the Region and

Recommends that FAO appraise speedily the training facilities available and explore the possibilities of appropriate courses being arranged.

7. The Committee,

Considering that post-entry quarantine is essential for the safe introduction of most planting material,

Realizing that adequate facilities must embrace both equipment and trained personnel,

Recommends that as far as practicable each territory develop its own facilities but that those territories which have not yet developed these facilities restrict their importations to small quantities from the safest available source handled through intermediate quarantine.

8. The Committee,

Recognizing that weeds take a serious toll of the production of important crops in the Region,

Aware that many weeds are spread as contaminants in seeds and food grains,

Recommends that each country initiate measures to minimize the introduction of weeds in this way.

9. The Committee,

Referring to Article II of the regional Plant Protection Agreement concerning the convening of meetings of the Committee,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, convene the Sixth Meeting of the Committee in 1966.